

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been examined. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 3, 6, 12, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 17-24 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Objection to the claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 7, and 18 because they contain minor typographical errors. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims overcome the objection. Also, the correction of the typographical errors does not alter the scope of the claims.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 58086626 A to Hashizume ("Hashizume")

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashizume. Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the cited reference.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by (and would not have been obvious over) Hashizume. For example, claim 1 comprises a button and a unit for lighting. Also, the unit for lighting comprises a backlight that irradiates the button from a rear side of a display surface of the button. On the other hand, Hashizume does not suggest the feature above.

As best shown in Fig. 1 of the reference, a red lamp 3 and a blue lamp 4 are provided on the front edge of a keyboard 6 and illuminate the various keys 2 on the keyboard 6. Accordingly, the keys 2 are not illuminated from a backlight as claimed, and thus, claim 1 is patentable over the reference.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 depends upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claim 4

Since claim 4 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable for reasons that are similar to the reasons presented above in conjunction with claim 1.

D. Claim 5

Since claim 5 depends upon claim 4, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

E. Claim 7

Since claim 7 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable for reasons that are similar to the reasons presented above in conjunction with claim 1.

F. Claims 8-11 and 13-15

Since claims 8-11 and 13-15 depend upon claim 7, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hashizume

Claims 3, 6, 12, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashizume. Since claims 3, 6, 12, and 16 are dependent upon claim 1, 4, or 7, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 17-24 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 7 but indicates that they would be patentable if they are rewritten in independent form. Since claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form and since claims 18-24 depend upon claim 17, Applicant submits that the objection is overcome.

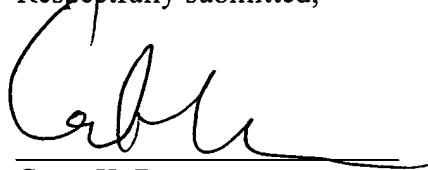
V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant K. Rowan', written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A button for an electronic device, comprising:
a button where a plurality of patterns are displayed on one key top; and
a unit for lighting said button;
wherein said plurality patterns are colored with a plurality of different colors, and said unit includes a plurality of different lighting colors including the same colors as those of said [a] plurality of patterns, and

wherein said unit for lighting comprises a backlight that irradiates said button from a rear side of a display surface of said button.

4. (Twice amended) A method of controlling lighting of a button in an electronic device, comprising:

providing a button in which a plurality of patterns colored with a plurality of different colors are displayed on one key top;

lighting said button with a plurality of different lighting colors including the same colors as those of said plurality of patterns so that the lighting color is different from the color of the pattern utilized,

wherein said button is lit from a rear side of a display surface of said button.

7. (Once Amended) An electronic device, comprising:
a button having at least a first pattern and a second pattern; and
a lighting device that emits at least a first lighting color and a second lighting color to illuminate the button,
wherein the first pattern has a first pattern color and [that] the second pattern has a second pattern color, and
wherein said lighting device comprises a backlight that illuminates said button from a rear side of a display surface of said button.

17. (Once Amended) [An electronic device as claimed in claim 7,] An electronic device, comprising:
a button having at least a first pattern and a second pattern; and
a lighting device that emits at least a first lighting color and a second lighting color to illuminate the button,
wherein the first pattern has a first pattern color and the second pattern has a second pattern color;

wherein said button comprises at least said first pattern having said first pattern color, said second pattern having said second pattern color, and a third pattern having a third pattern color.

18. (Once Amended) An electronic device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said third

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pattern color is substantially different than a combination color,

wherein [aid] said combination color is a combination of said first lighting color and said second lighting color,

wherein said lighting device emits said combination color by simultaneously emitting both said first lighting color and said second lighting color, and

wherein said third pattern is easy for a user to see when said lighting device emits said combination color.